

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

12 November 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 12 November 1969

Godfrey reported that the press has overreacted to news that the "old guard" faction of the Congress Party has expelled Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He speculated that this decision may be reversed when the entire Congress Party meets and Parliament opens.

Godfrey noted Joe Alsop's piece in today's Washington Post interpreting the Soviet position in the Middle East and commented on the misinformation contained therein.

Carver briefed on a report in from Laos providing rather firm information which tends to confirm that the Communists are using helicopters in combat.

The Director called attention to an exchange of messages between Saigon and Vientiane indicating that the two are at odds on some matter. After some discussion by the ADD/P and the DDCI, the Director asked that the ADD/P take appropriate action to keep this matter from mushrooming into a problem.

Maury reported that Senator John Sherman Cooper would like to be briefed. After some discussion the Director concurred in Senator Cooper's being briefed, to include T-KH material, provided the Senator is the only recipient of the briefing.

*Maury reported that George Murphy, staff member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, was briefed and had a number of questions with respect to SALT. After some discussion the Director directed that we answer no questions from the Hill with respect to SALT and that we refer the inquirer to ACDA. He went on to articulate a similar caveat with respect to comments pertaining to Verification.

DD/S&T provided the Director with a chart displaying where the TAGBOARD mission might have reached (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 10 November).

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25X1 [REDACTED]

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ADD/P reported that Charles Colson, Special Counsel to the President, has asked to meet with him in connection with what might be expected during this weekend's mass march and rally in opposition to the Vietnam war. The Director concurred and added that, since Howard Hunt is known to Mr. Colson, the ADD/P might wish to take him along.

25X1 [REDACTED]

The Director reviewed two letters on his desk for signature, one to Robert Mayo requesting that our Fiscal Year 1971 budget and Fiscal Years 1970 and 1971 personnel ceilings be amended upward and the other to Deputy Secretary Packard with respect to improving the security afforded to the intelligence budget figures. The Director went on to note the exceptions he has to both letters and asked D/PPB to take them into account and to resubmit new letters for his signature.

[REDACTED]

L. K. White

*Extracted and sent to action officer

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Joseph Alsop

Nasser Speech Foreshadows Larger Soviet Role in Mideast

THE LEFT-WING intellectuals have long since proclaimed the cold war a deplorable figment of the imaginations of deplorable great men, like Winston S. Churchill, Harry S. Truman and Dean G. Acheson. But those who still oppose genocide—and more particularly the Jewish left-wing intellectuals—had better have another look at what is happening in the Middle East.

In his recent speech, Gamal Abdel Nasser rather superfluously announced that Egypt was at war with Israel. It was a superfluous announcement because every realistic observer knows that Nasser would cheerfully "strengthen his leadership of the Arab world" by a vast human sacrifice of every man, woman and child of Jewish blood in all of Israel.

But the real cause for worry in Nasser's speech was the shrill, untruthful emphasis on the Americans serving in the Israeli army. There are indeed Jewish Americans who have understandably found a new meaning in life in Israel.

This reporter has written about three of four of them, in uniform and in the kibbutzes. But when a Soviet puppet—which is what Nasser really is today—starts talking in this manner, you should always read the speech as though it were written in mirror-writing.

In other words, you should assume that the Soviets are thinking about doing, or are already planning to do, what spokesmen like Nasser charge the United States with doing. In the present case, that means they are at least thinking about Soviet "volunteers" serving in the Egyptian and perhaps the other Arab armies or air forces.

THUS FAR the Arab armies and air forces have been hopelessly outclassed by the Israelis. But the air is the critical element, as the Six-Day War proved. The brutally crass Soviet attempt to steal a Mirage

Mirage fighter obviously revealed a desire to find out, in simulated combat, how to beat Mirages with the equivalent Soviet fighter planes, the MIG-21s, of which the Egyptians have a great many by now.

Furthermore, Soviet military personnel are now working with the Egyptian armed forces at every level, from battalion and company to the high command. The whole Egyptian air-warning and air-control system is almost completely Russian.

Worse still, Soviet pilots are already flying Egyptian planes (or rather, Soviet planes with Egyptian markings), if the Israeli intelligence is correct. In the main, Israeli intelligence about the Middle East has been the best available. And the Israelis are now sure that Russian flyers have already begun to undertake "defensive missions," primarily in the Egyptian air patrol over Cairo.

ADD THESE facts to the Nasser speech, and you find a dark pattern. It is only a small step from Soviet pilots flying "defensive missions," to Soviet pilots turning up over Sinai, and indeed in even more vital areas, in the MIG-21s that the Kremlin has given to Nasser.

Israel is now successfully enduring a permanent state of siege by the Arabs. But unlimited numbers of Soviet "volunteers," flying limitlessly replaced supersonic jets, can actually produce the kind of war of attrition that Nasser has vaingloriously boasted about. This is now the danger, not immediately, certainly, but real enough to be very worrying.

The Israelis have—or believe they have—a safeguard against the danger, in the form of destruction of the Egyptian airfields and aircraft by a preventive air attack. One must hope they are never driven so far. One must hope extra hard, moreover, because the other things that have happening in the Middle East unhap-

doubt at all about the Kremlin's role in the Syria-based attack on Lebanon's independence, already half successful, by the Arab guerrillas whom the Soviets now quite openly support.

Another coup in Saudi Arabia was supposed to coincide with the coup in Libya, but it was fortunately aborted by King Faisal. In sum, if we are not ready to tolerate genocide in Israel (pray God!), the United States may have to face another very grave cold war problem in the Middle East. And these facts describe only one part of the problem that the left-wing intellectuals ought to think about. The other part will be examined in the next report.

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